Appeal No. IV.

To the Young Men and Boys of Kingston

"Dear Sports":—.

Did you ever read "Baxter's Second Innings" by Drummond?

It is the story of a new batter who appeared on the diamond with a highly varnished bat, a new canvas suit, and other evidence of a freshman in athletics. I shall try to cram the book into a nutshell and adapt it to Canadian boys.

It was his first great match and this was why he did not recognize the pitcher. Had the first ball been a hairs breadth closer it would have been all over with the batter. The second ball was a hundred times swifter than the first but what exactly happened no one quite understood but the boy missed when he struck at it and it caught him sideways on the head and the next moment he lay motionless.

"It was a narrow shave," he heard the doctor say as he regained conciousness, "whatever made him get knocked out like that?"

"He did not know the tricks of the pitcher," said the Captain, who was holding up his head.

When the Captain called later to see Baxter who was the newest man to catch the team he said:

"Yes, my boy, you made a fool of yourself but you did not know. Some one should have put you up to it. I'll tell you something about that fellow's pitching.

'Shall I begin by telling you his name? It is temptation."

"Tim who?" said the boy.

"Tim Tation," repeated the Captain.

"Oh!" said the boy, "I hope you are not going to talk religion. I thought we were talking games."

"So we are," repeated the Captain. "We are talking of the same of life. You know you asked me last night if you were going to live. Since you are going to live I had better tell you something about the game. Life is simply a

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match with Tim Tation as pitcher. He's the fellow who knocks every boy out sooner or later. His pitching may be "swift", "slow", or 'curves" and includes "ins," "outs," "out-drops," 'high in shoots." Now here is what I call "a swift" when a boy will tell a sudden lie when he would have told true if he had had a minute to consider. This means that a boy is really two boys if he has been born again into the family of God, a bad boy and a good boy. Now the bad boy is usually on the spot first. It takes a few seconds for the other as it were, to come up, and before he arrives the mischief is done."

"But why should the bad boy turn up first?"

"Because he was born first, I suppose, and is stronger. The good boy is born later. The thing is to grow the good boy and starve the bad till he is too thin and broken down to do harm."

"How can a boy be born twice?"

"Ah, that is a miracle which only God can perform. When He sees we are ready for it, that we really desire it and have made a clean-cut decision to look to Him for eternal life, He gives it and we begin to see things differently. The things of God begin to be real to us. But to go back to the game, when the pitcher sees you are up to "swifts" he turns on "slows". What makes them so deadly is that they look so insufferably stupid. The average boy is fairly proof against very big temptations but it is the little ones that play the mischief. Notorious sins are bad form but when quiet temptations come which no one knows about, even the strongest may break down. I suppose you know that every boy has some one weak point to which nearly all the pitching is directed. Beware of slow sins—the temptation which is powerful in its continuance.

Then there are "the curves". A curve goes wide at first and suddenly rounds upon you. When you are constantly on the watch for curves the game is half won."

"But," said Baxter, "why do they let Temptation play?"

"To make a good game, of course. Every boy who is worth his salt likes to play in a great match, and there cannot be a great match without it.

"I thought it a disgrace to have anything to do with it."

"Not at all, Temptation is not sin. Don't think it is all up with you because you are tempted. Temptation is an invitation: sin is when we accept it. Temptation is an opportunity to go in and win. Every ball the Pitcher sends is a chance to score. A boy who never stands face to face with Temptation gets no muscle in his new life. It is really a splendid thing for boys who have learned how to resist.

"Oh!" said the boy, "this game—this game of life is terrible—terrible—to one like me so easily knocked out. I don't see how I can risk it."

"Risk what?"

"Another innings. I can't face the pitcher, and the past is a frightful handicap."

"The past can be forgiven, Baxter," said the Captain quietly and I think you will win."

"You do," replied the boy, "Why?"

"First, because you know your weakness, second because you are in earnest, third, because your Captain never lost a match."

A few days later the following appeared in the Athletic Column of the Weekly Chronicle:—

"But the feature of the match was the play of young Baxter, who made such an unfortunate spill last Saturday. It was clear that he meant to retrieve himself in the second innings for he was in such form that he was well up in the score list before time was called. The usual ceremony was duly performed of presenting the bat. The Captain in making the presentation congratulated him on the resolute stand he had made and expressed the conviction that from what they had seen that day he was sure his future record would be one of continued victory. Baxter attributed his success to the Captain, who had never lost a match.

Such is the story and I appeal to every young man and boy in Kingston to "Play—play up and play the game" as Baxter did. You can catch the same team by applying at the recruiting tent, Crusader's Camp, corner Johnston and Clergy Sts. any evening beginning June 26th.

Yours on the winning side,

B. CARR-HARRIS

Richardson / Heinemann

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